



Environment Council of Rhode Island  
PO Box 9061  
Providence, RI 02940

December 8, 2020

**Re: Comments on Docket 5058**

Dear Ms. Massaro and Members of the Commission,

These comments are on behalf of the Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) in response to the RI Public Utilities Commission solicitation in Docket 5058 where National Grid is proposing to provide certain electricity consumer data to municipal aggregation programs in order for a program to effectively execute a competitive bid for electricity supply and subsequently enroll residents in the program consistent with RI Gen. Law §39-3-1.2.

The Environment Council of Rhode Island (ECRI) is a coalition of over 60 Rhode Island organizations as well as individuals whose mission is to serve as a collective voice for developing and advocating policies and laws that protect and enhance the environment. ECRI supported and actively advocated for changes to the municipal aggregation statute. We successfully helped to secure the legislative passage of legislation ([H5536](#), [H5536subA](#), and [S0877](#)) that removed the procedural barriers preventing municipalities from pursuing the aggregation of electricity supply for residential and small business customers.

ECRI is encouraged to see municipalities taking significant steps towards implementing aggregation plans aiming to provide residents and small business customers with new options for electricity supply. These new options would provide stable electricity supply rates while increasing the amount of electricity coming from renewable energy sources, thus serving as a strong climate action step for communities.

In 2016 and 2017, when advocating for legislative changes to the municipal aggregation statute, ECRI strongly supported a truly opt-out program to help communities effectively deliver the policy program goals of offering lower, stable electricity supply costs and increasing demand for renewable energy. By making the aggregation program the default supply, the program will generate significant demand for additional renewable energy, which has the dual benefit of reducing harmful greenhouse gas emissions that disproportionately impact low-income consumers who contribute the least to emissions while simultaneously creating additional market pressure that will support renewable energy generators.

For these reasons, ECRI respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission approves a policy change as part of this docket and allows for the sharing of customer account information. This change is necessary to implement the good public policy passed by the RI General Assembly, also consistent with how the program operates in Massachusetts with National Grid customers. Of particular importance to ECRI is to make the renewable energy benefits of aggregation programs accessible to all residents and small businesses, as Rhode Islanders are truly concerned about the climate change crisis.

Sincerely,

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